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DOCTOR WHO #3

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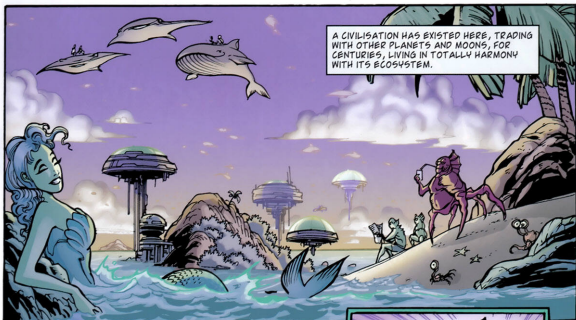
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THE PLANET MER.



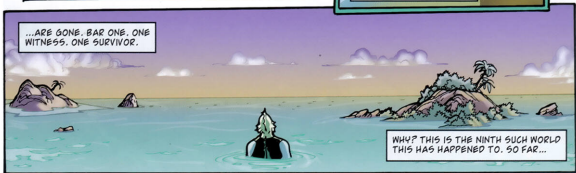
A CIVILISATION HAS EXISTED HERE, TRADING WITH OTHER PLANETS AND MOONS, FOR CENTURIES, LIVING IN TOTALLY HARMONY WITH ITS ECOSYSTEM.



BUT TODAY, SOMETHING WILL CHANGE THAT...

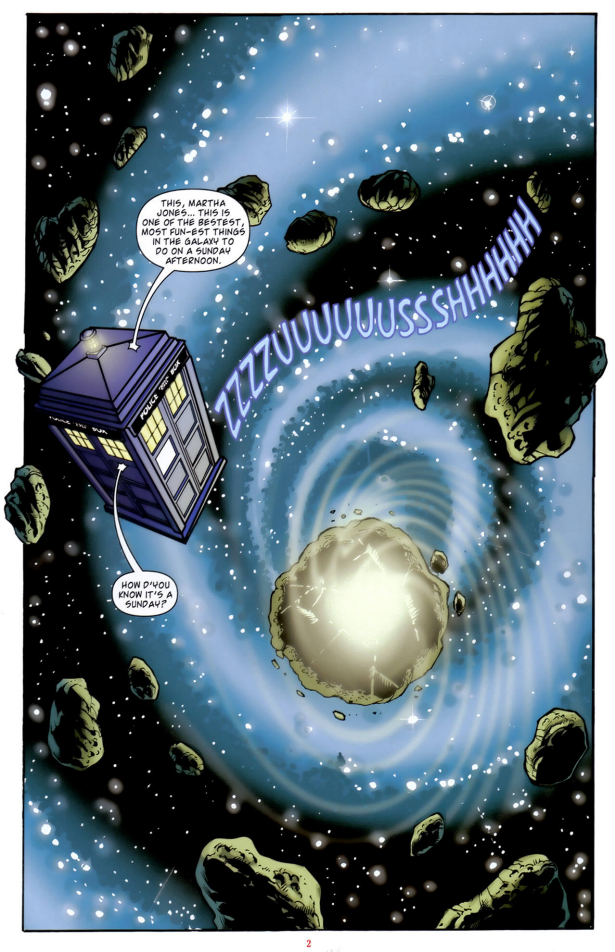


...FOR TODAY, THE EIGHT MILLION SOULS WHO LIVE IN THE SEAS OF MER...



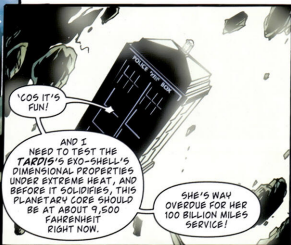
...ARE GONE. BAR ONE. ONE WITNESS. ONE SURVIVOR.

WHY? THIS IS THE NINTH SUCH WORLD THIS HAS HAPPENED TO. SO FAR...



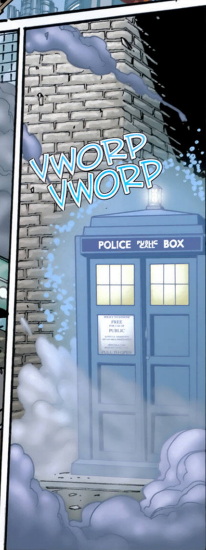
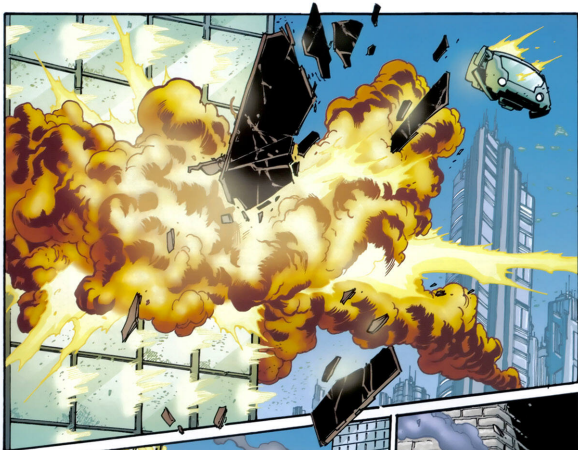
THIS, MARTHA JONES... THIS IS ONE OF THE BESTEST, MOST FUN-EST THINGS IN THE GALAXY TO DO ON A SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

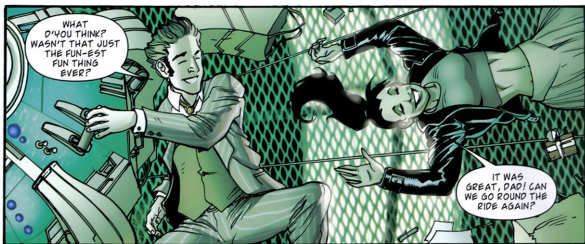
HOW D'YOU KNOW IT'S A SUNDAY?



GALAXY MST. LOCAL STAR, FELINUS.
LOCAL SYSTEM, NEW HUMAN EMPIRE.
THIS PLANET: NEW SAVANNAH.

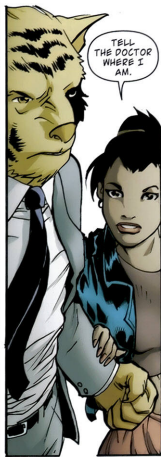














THE PLANET OMPHALOS.

A HIGHLY ADVANCED CIVILISATION HAS EXISTED HERE, TRADING WITH OTHER PLANETS AND MOONS, FOR CENTURIES, LIVING IN TOTALLY HARMONY WITH ITS NEIGHBOURS.

FINALLY.
IT IS TIME...
EVERYTHING IN MY
LIFE HAS BEEN IN
PREPARATION.
FOR THIS!

BUT TODAY, SOMETHING
WILL CHANGE THAT...

FOR TODAY, THE SEVENTEEN
BILLION SOULS WHO LIVE IN
THE CITIES ON OMPHALOS...

...ARE GONE. BAR ONE. ONE WITNESS. ONE
SURVIVOR. AND HE'S NOT PARTICULARLY
SURPRISED, UPSET OR DISAPPOINTED.

AT
LAST.

AND THE UNIVERSE CARRIES ON
AS IF NOTHING HAS HAPPENED
TO TEN WORLDS NOW...







IT'S 11:15 PM.
MARTHA JONES,
YOU'VE BEEN
HERE FOR FOUR
HOURS NOW.

YEAH, I
KNOW!

MY
CLIENT —

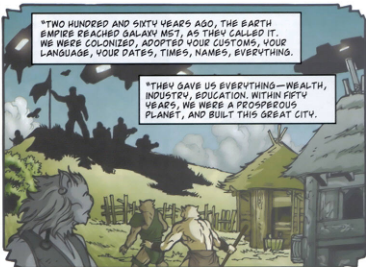
— CAN
SPEAK FOR
HERSELF,
THANK YOU.

WHY
AM I UNDER
ARREST?



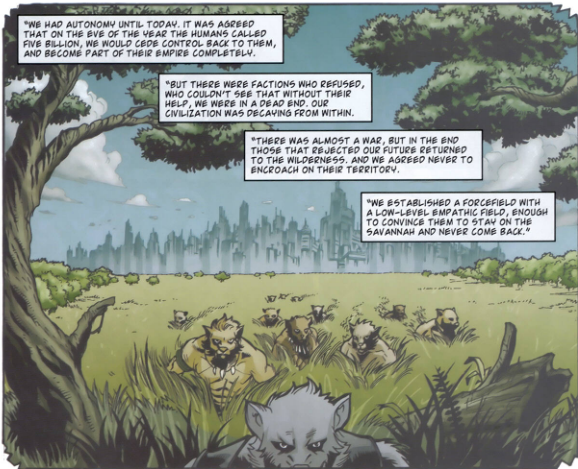
THE THREATS
WE'VE RECEIVED IMPLY
THAT ON THE TRANSFER
OF SOVEREIGNTY BACK TO
THE HUMANS, THERE
WILL BE TROUBLE.

SO I'M HERE
FOR MY OWN
PROTECTION?



*TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY YEARS AGO, THE EARTH
EMPIRE REACHED GALAXY M57, AS THEY CALLED IT.
WE WERE COLONIZED, ADOPTED YOUR CUSTOMS, YOUR
LANGUAGE, YOUR DATES, TIMES, NAMES, EVERYTHING.

*THEY GAVE US EVERYTHING—WEALTH,
INDUSTRY, EDUCATION. WITHIN FIFTY
YEARS, WE WERE A PROSPEROUS
PLANET, AND BUILT THIS GREAT CITY.



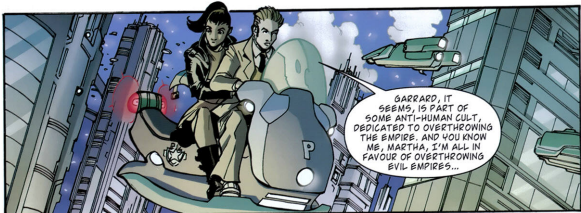
*WE HAD AUTONOMY UNTIL TODAY. IT WAS AGREED
THAT ON THE EVE OF THE YEAR THE HUMANS CALLED
FIVE BILLION, WE WOULD CEDE CONTROL BACK TO THEM,
AND BECOME PART OF THEIR EMPIRE COMPLETELY.

*BUT THERE WERE FACTIONS WHO REFUSED,
WHO COULDN'T SEE THAT WITHOUT THEIR
HELP, WE WERE IN A DEAD END. OUR
CIVILIZATION WAS DECAYING FROM WITHIN.

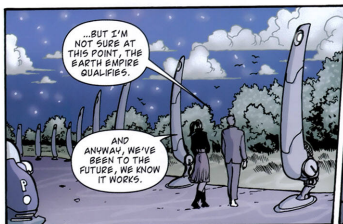
*THERE WAS ALMOST A WAR, BUT IN THE END
THOSE THAT REJECTED OUR FUTURE RETURNED
TO THE WILDERNESS. AND WE AGREED NEVER TO
ENCROACH ON THEIR TERRITORY.

*WE ESTABLISHED A FORCEFIELD WITH
A LOW-LEVEL EMPATHIC FIELD, ENOUGH
TO CONVINCE THEM TO STAY ON THE
SAVANNAH AND NEVER COME BACK."





GARRARD, IT SEEMS, IS PART OF SOME ANTI-HUMAN CULT, DEDICATED TO OVERTHROWING THE EMPIRE. AND YOU KNOW ME, MARTHA, I'M ALL IN FAVOUR OF OVERTHROWING EVIL EMPIRES...



...BUT I'M NOT SURE AT THIS POINT, THE EARTH EMPIRE QUALIFIES.

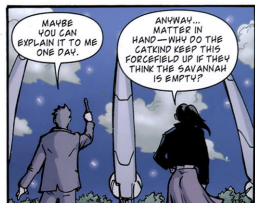
AND ANYWAY, WE'VE BEEN TO THE FUTURE, WE KNOW IT WORKS.



OH, MARTHA JONES, YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO ALL THAT CAN COME UNRAVELLED IF...

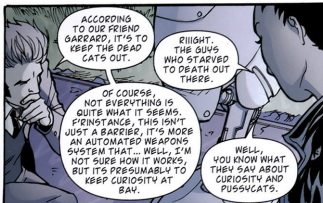
YEAH, YEAH, INFINITE TEMPORAL FLUX, I REMEMBER.

YOU DO? OH. OH, GOOD. YEAH. WELL DONE.



MAYBE YOU CAN EXPLAIN IT TO ME ONE DAY.

ANYWAY... MATTER IN HAND—WHY DO THE CATKIND KEEP THIS FORCEFIELD UP IF THEY THINK THE SAVANNAH IS EMPTY?



ACCORDING TO OUR FRIEND GARRARD, IT'S TO KEEP THE DEAD CATS OUT.

RIIIGHT. THE GUYS WHO STARVED TO DEATH OUT THERE.

OF COURSE, NOT EVERYTHING IS QUITE WHAT IT SEEMS. F'RINSTANCE, THIS ISN'T JUST A BARRIER, IT'S MORE AN AUTOMATED WEAPONS SYSTEM THAT... WELL, I'M NOT SURE HOW IT WORKS, BUT IT'S PRESUMABLY TO KEEP CURIOSITY AT BAY.

WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT CURIOSITY AND PUSSYCATS.



BACK ON YOUR PLANET, F'RINSTANCE, YOU HAVE STORIES OF A MONSTER IN A HUGE LAKE IN SCOTLAND. MIGHT BE A LOAD OF OLD TWADDLE, BUT YOU CAN NEVER BE QUITE SURE, AND IT'S OFTEN THAT LITTLE SEED OF DOUBT THAT STOPS PEOPLE SWIMMING IN DANGEROUS WATERS.

GO ON, NOW TELL ME THERE REALLY IS A LOCH NESS MONSTER THAT EATS SWIMMERS.

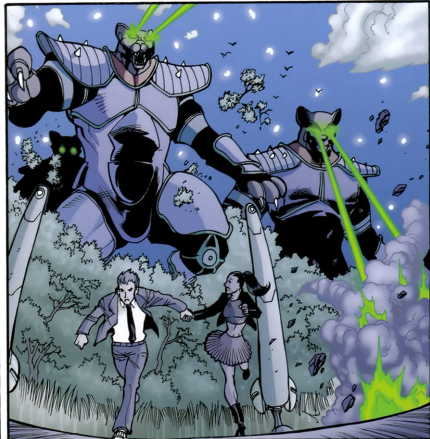
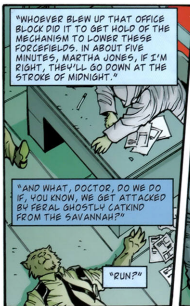
WELL, I DON'T THINK EITHER OF THEM ACTUALLY EATS PEOPLE.

EITHER...? OF...? THEM?



UUP. ONE'S A BIG CUBORG, THE OTHER'S A MUTATED DNA EXPERIMENT BETWEEN A VERY SILLY MAN AND AN INNOCENT SNAKE.

OF COURSE. TWO. WHY DIDN'T I GUESS THAT...?

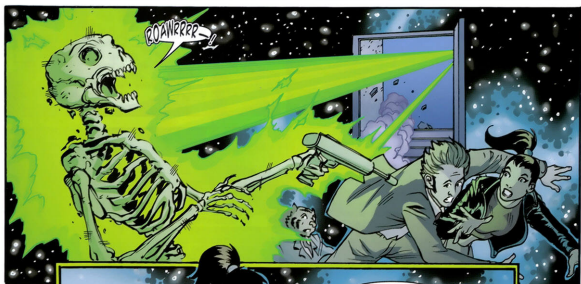
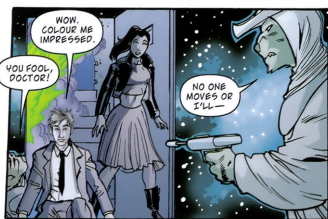




IS THIS THE RIGHT TIME TO POINT OUT THAT AS EVERYONE'S GOING THATTAWAY, WE MIGHT BE IN TROUBLE GOING THIS WAY?



THERE'S GARRARD!





THIS IS LIMBO SPACE, MARTHA JONES. WELCOME TO MY HOME.

BUBASTION!

YOU MADE IT OUT OF THE GALLERY, THEN. BRILLIANT. STILL, THAT'S GOTTA BE ONE LESS LIFE... **EIGHT**, IS IT NOW?

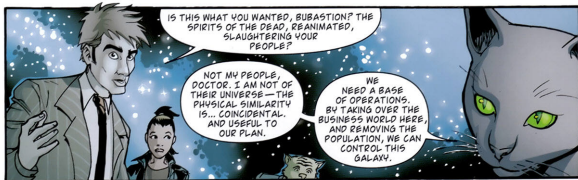


"OF COURSE I ESCAPED. AM I NOT BUBASTION? OF THE ELITE PANTHEON?"

TOLD YOU, YOU WOULDN'T LIKE WHERE THE SONIC SCREWDRIIVER WAS GUIDING US, MARTHA.

YOU WERE RIGHT. AS USUAL. GOOD THING I'M NOT FEL-D-I SENSITIVE, ISN'T IT?

OH, GET YOU, DOCTOR JONES AND YOUR TECHNICAL TERMS.



IS THIS WHAT YOU WANTED, BUBASTION? THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD, REANIMATED, SLAUGHTERING YOUR PEOPLE?

NOT MY PEOPLE, DOCTOR. I AM NOT OF THEIR UNIVERSE—THE PHYSICAL SIMILARITY IS... COINCIDENTAL. AND USEFUL TO OUR PLAN.

WE NEED A BASE OF OPERATIONS. BY TAKING OVER THE BUSINESS WORLD HERE, AND REMOVING THE POPULATION, WE CAN CONTROL THIS GALAXY.



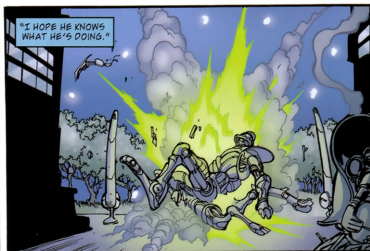
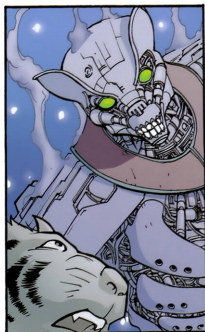
YEAH, AND? I MEAN, GREAT. THAT'S CLEVER. YOU RUN THIS PLANET, YOU RUN THE CONGLOMERATES VIA HENCHCATS I'M GUESSING AS GOING OUT AND ABOUT MUST BE TRICKY FOR YOU AND YOUR, WHAT WAS IT, ELITE PANTHEON? NO DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR THERE, THEN.

MASTER BUBASTION—WE HAVE FOLLOWED YOUR ORDERS, BUT WE DID NOT EXPECT THE DEAD TO RISE. TO STRIKE US DOWN.

OH, IT'S NOT THE DEAD—THEY'RE JUST HOLOGRAPHICALLY DISGUISED HYDRAULIC WEAPONS, BEAMING DOWN THE ILLUSION OF BEING CATKIND.

YOU'VE BEEN TRICKED, GARRARD. BUT THEN PEOPLE LIKE YOU SO OFTEN ARE. I WONDER IF GULLIBILITY IS GENETIC—I ENCOUNTER IT SO OFTEN THESE DAYS AND—





NEXT MONTH IN:
ISSUE #4





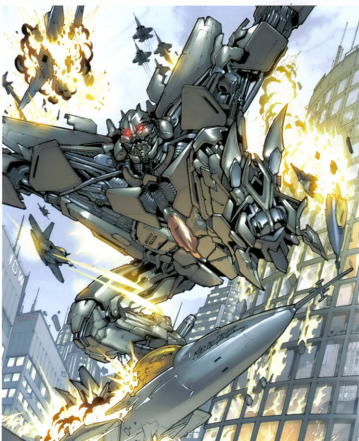
REIGN OF TERROR

Where the *TRANSFORMERS* movie left off, THE REIGN OF STARScream begins!

When we last saw Starscream onscreen, he was one of only a few Decepticons to survive the epic battle at the climax of the blockbuster *Transformers* movie. After the credits rolled, he was taking off into space for parts unknown... until now! While a live-action sequel is already set for the summer of 2009, fans need not wait another year to get their first fix of *Transformers* movie mayhem—IDW Publishing will release the film's official comics sequel in April, with the no-holds-barred 'botfest *The Reign of Starscream*.

For this marquee miniseries, IDW has brought back the heavy hitters from its best-selling *Transformers* movie tie-ins of 2007—IDW Publisher and Editor-in-Chief **Chris Ryall**, who co-wrote the *Transformers Movie Prequel*—and fan-favorite sketchmaster **Alex Milne**, who handled the art on the *Transformers Movie Adaptation*. Joining Ryall this time will be IDW cohort **Chris Mowry**, who created the overall story for this comic book continuation of their war on our world.

To find out more about the upcoming movie sequel comic, we banged on Ryall's office door several times to echoes of "I'm on deadline! You wanna die?" So, instead, we sandbagged him on the way to his car, bound his wrists up with zip-ties and then force-fed him decaffeinated coffee until he started to talk. In order to get Mowry to talk, we just hid some of his toys.



cover by Alex Milne

Angel: After the Fall #5
 Badger Saves the World #4
 Cary Decorum's Futuristic Tales of the Here and Now #6: After the Siege
 Doctor Who #3
 Doctor Who Classics #4
 Duo Stars #2
 Everybody's Dead #1
 Fallen Angel #25
 FX #1
 Gene Simmons Zipper #5
 Ghost Whisperer: The Haunted #1
 Locke & Key #2
 Rogue Angel: Teller of Tall Tales #2
 Silent Hill: Sinners' Reward #2
 Speed Racer: Chronicles of the Racer #3
 Star Trek: The Next Generation: Intelligence Gathering #3
 Star Trek: New Frontier: Turnaround #1
 Wormwood: Colanari Rising #4

The Transformers: Best of the UK: Space Pirates #1
 The Transformers Spotlight: Grimlock
 The Transformers Spotlight: Mirage
 The Transformers Focus On... Decepticons!

The Complete Badger Vol. 2 TPB
 Complete Terry & The Pirates Vol. 3 HC
 CSI: Serial—New Printing
 CSI: Bad Rap—New Printing
 Sparrow: Ashley Wood, Vol. 2
 Speed Racer Vol. 3 TPB
 Speed Racer, Vol. 4 TPB
 Speed Racer/Racer X, Vol. 1 TPB
 Star Trek: Year Four TPB
 Wormwood Vol. 2 TPB
 Zombies vs. Robots vs. Amazons HC

Worthwhile Books Titles
 Michael Recycle

MARCH RELEASES FROM IDW PUBLISHING



Everybody's Dead #1



Star Trek: New Frontier: Turnaround #1



FX #1



Ghost Whisperer: The Haunted #1

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cover by Gabriel Rodriguez

IDWords: So, *Starscream* has always been a favorite among the fans, and with his escape at the end of the movie it seems only natural that you'd showcase him in the sequel. Can you give us a sneak peek behind what we're going to see?

Chris Ryall: Well, the one thing I wish we could've seen more of in the movie was more interplay between the Decepticons. We didn't get to see all that much of their personalities, so this sequel is definitely going to delve into what makes some of them—notably Starscream and a few so-far-unnamed others—tick. Starscream, as he always has in all his iterations, has some schemes of his own, and now that Megatron is out of the way, he sees this as the perfect chance to take charge and make them happen.

Chris Mowry: I think what is going to stand out the most is that this is a version of Starscream that we've not seen before, and certainly didn't see enough of in the movie. He's not the same running joke as he was back in the day. He's smart and lethal... VERY lethal.

IDWords: Ryall, you co-wrote the movie prequel, and now you're co-writing the movie sequel—sort of the IDW bookends for the film. How different was it writing the two?

CR: With both, the movie script was our starting place. Only with the Prequel, we worked backwards, filling in gaps and explaining things that were referenced as having already happened. With the Sequel, it's much more of an unknown. The end of the movie is where we begin, too, but from there, we're charting out our own path, free to expand the story into some exciting new directions.

IDWords: There's a live-action sequel in 2009. How do you navigate the storytelling of the comics sequel, knowing that there's a further movie sequel on the horizon?

CM: At this moment, we know that there will indeed be a sequel, and one of our characters will play a major role in it. Plot-wise, we're trying to continue the story right where the movie left off and have some fun with it. During this whole process however, we've got the live-action sequel in the back of our minds and it's going to be very tough to not contradict that. I think people will be pleased at what we have to offer, though. There'll be much more action than in the movie and prequel and we'll try to tie up a lot of those loose ends that were left from the movie. Just how did the Decepticons get to Earth before the Autobots anyway?

IDWords: Rumor has it that there'll be new Transformers characters in the comics sequel who weren't in the film. Want to give us a roll call?

CR: I'd love to. But I'd love even more for people to be surprised when they see them appear in the comic for the first time. I can tell you that there will be characters both known and unknown appearing here. Some familiar and some all-new.

IDWords: Will there be any "Easter eggs" or hidden references to the IDW Transformers continuity for sharp-eyed fans to look for?

CM: Why, of course! There'll be plenty of things to be on the lookout for.

CR: With longtime fans like Alex Milne on art and [co-writer] Chris Mowry involved? Oh, that's guaranteed. In fact, you can see a first one on this page, in the form of variant cover artist Gabriel Rodriguez's tribute to a classic Transformers comic cover from times past.

IDWords: Ryall, readers of the IDW message boards know you're not just editor-in-chief, you're a big fan of Transformers as well. What's with the whole "ChrisCharger" thing there?

CR: That was my "guise" at the time we started, since my then-car, the Honda S2000, was already an Alternator, Wincharger. And Nick Roche was kind enough to bring that figure to life (that was his first professional IDW work, a fact that no doubt brings tears of one kind or another to his eyes). Now that that car is long gone, though, it might be time for me to scan a new form.

IDWords: Speaking of the "Chris" name, your collaborator this time is fellow IDW Autobots Chris Mowry. How did the whole "Chris & Chris" team come about, and how are you working together?

CR: Well, one of our first plotting sessions devolved quickly into heckling the John Cena movie *The Marine* instead of actually working, if that tells you anything about our co-writing process. But actually, Mowry had this entire story solidly planned out in detailed fashion, so it's an easy matter for us to now work together on the actual scripting.

IDWords: Okay, there's the movie sequel. What else is in store for IDW's Transformers fans in 2008?

CR: Let's just say that while Megatron might not be getting much play here—due to the fact that he "died" at the end of the first movie—that won't be a problem in our other books. All Hail.

CM: Yeah, All Hail, indeed. But I think maybe since this is an election year, the fans will get to choose which Decepticon leader they like best.

IDWords: And now a question sure to stir up controversy among fans: Which is your all-time favorite Transformers continuity? And no—you can't say "IDW".

CM: Definitely the Marvel stuff. Having the new toy you just got suddenly appear in a comic book was just too cool.



cover by James Raiz

CR: So you mean which is my second-favorite continuity, then? I'm definitely biased towards the movie continuity now, since it's new and exciting and we're actually contributing to it. But in the spirit of fair play, I'll have to go with the original Marvel continuity—it was the foundation for everything that followed, and it's what I first read as a kid. And you know your first time always holds a special place in your heart...

IDW